

A scenic landscape featuring a blue sky with wispy clouds, a warm orange sunset, and snow-capped mountains in the foreground. The scene is framed by a white border.

*Melanie &
Brandon*

Welcome



We are Melanie and Brandon. We may not know you yet, but already we are in awe of your strength. Thank you for your courage, your love, and taking the time to learn about us. We are so excited to share our story with you!

Opening our hearts to adoption has been a journey filled with hope, reflection, and so much joy. While our path to parenthood has not followed the route we once imagined, it has led us right here—to the opportunity to grow our family in the most meaningful way. This is where we were meant to be.

We cannot wait to show you what life looks like in our home: a lot of laughter, spontaneous adventures, and many family get-togethers. Whether it is hiking with our dogs in the park, taking weekend trips to the lake to go fishing, or spending quality time with family at our monthly parties, our life is full of joy and love that we cannot wait to share with a child.

We are honored you are considering us for adoption, and we feel incredibly lucky just to have the chance to be a part of this process. We hope that by sharing who we are, you will see the kind of parents we hope to be—supportive, joyful, and completely devoted.



ABOUT *Brandon*

Hi, I'm Brandon! I'm 36 years old and grew up in a small Midwest rural town with a population of about 1,000 people – the kind of place where everyone knows your name, and values like kindness, hard work, and helping your neighbor are part of everyday life. I was the youngest of two boys, with my older brother always looking out for me.

One of the greatest influences in my life was my grandmother. She moved in with us when I was in third grade, and her warmth, laughter, and unconditional love helped shape the man I am today. She taught me what it means to show up for the people you love, how to care deeply, and most importantly how to smile and laugh in most situations – something I hope to pass on to a child of my own.

I'm proud to be a first-generation college graduate. I earned both my Bachelor of Arts and Master's in Business Administration and

currently lead a Financial Analysis team at a large corporation. I love my work, especially the opportunity to support and advocate for my team. It's important to create a positive environment where people feel encouraged and valued.

Life outside of work is full of adventure and connection. I love traveling, hiking in National Parks, and spending weekends at our family's lake home. I am lucky to have a close relationship with my nephews and nieces, and I take every opportunity I can to visit them. We love going to the zoo, the park, air shows, and aquariums – watching them discover the world reminds me of how magical childhood really is. I also enjoy teaching our dogs new tricks, taking them for walks, and watching them splash in the water at the lake. I am very excited about becoming a father and cannot wait to enjoy trips, fishing, boating, and someday golf with our child.

Brandon Through Melanie's Eyes

Brandon is the kind of person who makes life feel brighter, safer, and a whole lot more fun. He is that rare mix of old soul and playful spirit—humble, loyal, trustworthy, and effortlessly funny in a way that brings everyone together. What sets him apart most is how deeply dependable he is; he is the first one to step up when someone needs help, never looking for recognition, just quietly making things better. I see the makings of an incredible father in him every single day. Whether he is taking our nephews tubing, leading them through the aquarium or buying them every snack they ask for, he connects so naturally with kids. He is playful, patient, and always present. He will be the dad who shows up to every game, fixes every broken toy, and somehow makes chores feel fun. Family is everything to him. He calls my mom and his parents daily just to check in and lovingly helps care for my grandmother. Brandon is my constant. My calm. My rock. I know without a doubt that our future children will grow up knowing what true love, joy, and unwavering support look like—because they will see it every single day in him.





ABOUT *Melanie*

Hello, I'm Melanie! I am 35 years old and grew up in a Midwest suburban town as the youngest of four by nearly ten years. I became an aunt at just 10 years old. With ten amazing nieces and nephews, aged 8 to 24 years old, I have been lucky to spend much of my life surrounded by children. Helping care for them deeply shaped who I am and taught me the value of patience, love, and being present.

I was lucky to grow up in a home where my parents always encouraged me to follow my passions. Whether I was dancing competitively, spending Saturday mornings bowling with my dad, or losing myself in a good book, they made it clear that what brought me joy mattered. That support shaped the way I see the world—and taught me the importance of nurturing others' dreams, too.

As a first-generation college graduate, I earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry before going on to complete medical school. Today, I am honored to serve as both a Pediatric Hospitalist and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics. In these roles, I have the privilege to pursue my passions of providing compassionate care to hospitalized children, supporting families through some of their toughest times, and teaching and mentoring the next generation of physicians.

Beyond my career, I find the most fulfillment in everyday life spending time with the people (and dogs) I love most. I enjoy family trips, exploring national parks, and spending weekends at the lake. When I am home, I find peace in a cozy morning with coffee and a good book, cooking tasty meals for my family, and quilting. I am excited for the day I get to share these experiences with a child.

Melanie Through Brandon's Eyes

Brandon still remembers seeing Melanie the first time at the ice cream parlor. Nervously, he talked way too much, but she smiled and acted like she was interested in every word. Ever since that day, Melanie listens to him, knows him, and is always thinking of ways she can be an advocate for him. Melanie is not shy to give feedback, but she always does it in a compassionate way. Each day she makes Brandon a better person. As a mother, Melanie will show our children how to stand up for themselves, how to persevere, and how to become the best version of themselves. She will be their number one advocate, and will show them love and support, even during hard days. She will love them unconditionally, laugh with them, listen to their stories, and encourage them. Her love never runs out. Melanie is one of the strongest individuals I know, and she will teach them what it means to work hard and be a good mother. She will hold them to high standards but give them every tool to succeed. She is one of the most positive influences I have had on my life, and our children will be so lucky to have her cheering them on.





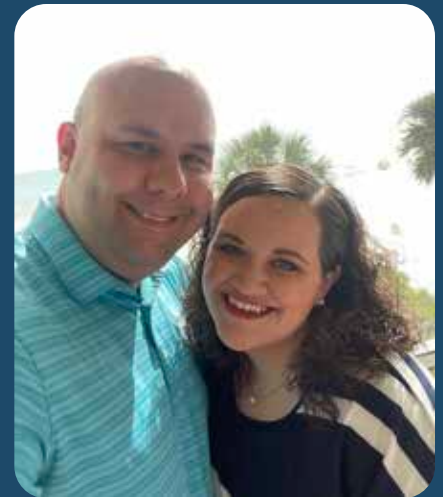
THE STORY OF *Us*

Our story began in the Summer of 2015. Brandon was thriving in his finance career after completing his MBA. Melanie was finishing her second year of medical school. With some matchmaking encouragement from mutual friends, Brandon mustered the courage to ask Melanie out—for ice cream, her favorite treat. Sparks flew instantly, and a friend confidently predicted, “You’ll be married within a year!”

Despite our busy schedules, we prioritized time together—date nights, weekend trips, family reunions, anniversary parties—anything to be together. After 10 wonderful months of dating, we welcomed Kali, our beloved Great Pyrenees-Terrier mix, who instantly became the center of our world. After one year of dating, Melanie finished a major exam. To celebrate, Brandon planned a day of history and nature—a museum visit followed by a walk through a beautiful city park. There, in front of many fountains, Brandon dropped to one knee and asked Melanie to spend forever with him. In March 2017, surrounded by people we love, we were married at the University’s Catholic Church.



“AS SOON AS I SAW YOU, I KNEW AN ADVENTURE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.”
- WINNIE THE POOH



Shortly after our wedding, Melanie began Pediatrics Residency. We purchased the home we live in today and moved closer to the hospital. When Kali turned three, we decided to give her a companion and adopted Luna—a gentle and affectionate Great Pyrenees-Labradoodle mix. The two quickly became inseparable.

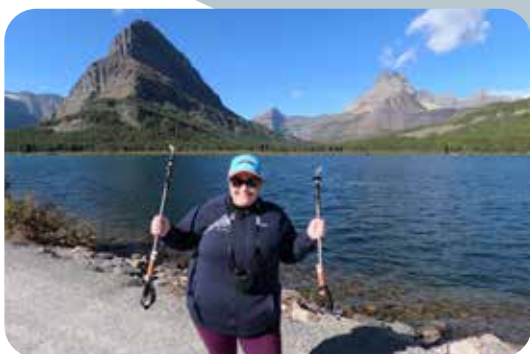
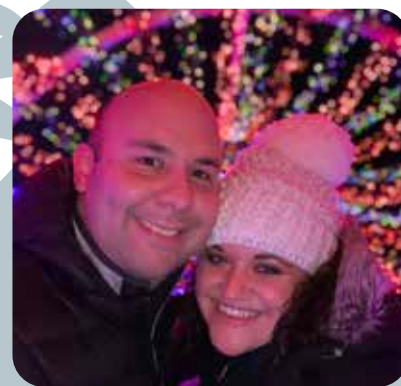
Over the years, Brandon continued to grow in his finance career, becoming a manager. Melanie completed residency and stayed at the University to teach as a Pediatric Hospitalist. Through it all, we dreamed of expanding our family and made heartfelt efforts to do so. But we faced unexpected fertility struggles that tested our strength and deepened our connection. Through it all, we leaned on each other as best friends, partners, and unwavering sources of support.

In January 2025, we lost Kali unexpectedly to cancer. She had been with us through every major moment, and her passing broke our hearts. Luna, too, felt the loss deeply. A few months after, we welcomed Belle into our family—a playful and loving Great Pyrenees-Australian Shepherd mix who brought light back into our home.

Today, we are deeply grateful for the life we have built. We are stable, grounded, and living out our dream careers. Our home is full of love, laughter, wagging tails, and hope. After years of reflection, prayer, and countless conversations, we know in our hearts that adoption is the right path for us. It's a journey we feel called to—one built on love, intention, and the desire to share our lives with a child. We are ready to grow our family through adoption and offer a home full of warmth, joy, and unconditional love.

Why Adoption?

Adoption has always been part of our vision for growing a family. From early in our relationship, we had talked about having both biological and adopted children, knowing that love, not biology, is what truly makes a family. Over time, it became clear that having children biologically might not be part of our journey, but our desire to become parents has only deepened. We have come to see that life does not always go as planned—but sometimes, that leads you exactly where you are meant to be. Over the years, we have built a life we truly love: our home is full of laughter, our careers are steady and fulfilling, and we have found real joy in the everyday moments together. We feel more ready than ever to share all of that with a child. We have seen the beauty and positive impact of adoption in our own family and believe with all our hearts that this is how we are meant to become parents.



"IT MATTERS NOT WHAT SOMEONE IS BORN, BUT WHAT THEY GROW TO BE."
- ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

Our Home

We live in a warm and welcoming ranch-style home on a quiet cul-de-sac in a family-friendly, safe suburban neighborhood. With four bedrooms and three full bathrooms, there's plenty of space to grow. Our open-concept family room, kitchen, and dining area—with tall ceilings and a cozy fireplace—is truly the heart of our home. It's where we cook together, talk about our days, and gather with loved ones. Downstairs, we have created a large, kid-friendly space ready to become a playroom. It already has bookshelves, a puzzle table, and a game table thanks to our nephews. Outside, our fully fenced yard offers a safe, private space to play, spend time with our dogs, and enjoy evenings by the fire.

Our neighborhood is full of families, and it's common to see kids riding bikes and neighbors chatting outside. We're just minutes from parks, trails, schools, and everything we need. It's a safe, connected, and family-centered community.

In addition to our home, we are grateful to have a lake condo where we spend weekends throughout the year with both sets of our parents. It's a peaceful getaway with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a spacious kitchen and living area that opens to a large balcony overlooking the water. We love spending time on the boat, going tubing, fishing, and cooling off in the swimming pool. It's a place filled with fun, family, and laughter.



BRANDON'S Family

Brandon was raised in a home filled with love and strong family values. Though his immediate family was small, he grew up surrounded by a large, close-knit extended family. His parents have been happily married for 44 years, a powerful example of commitment and unconditional support. They created a nurturing, stable environment where both of their sons were encouraged to grow, learn, and become independent.

Brandon's mom recently retired after a 40-year career as a high school librarian, known for her warmth and patience. His dad has worked as the Fleet Manager for an Anheuser-Busch distributor for the past four decades. They still live in Brandon's childhood home, just an hour and a half away, and visit often. They are proud grandparents to Brandon's nephews and are thrilled at the thought of welcoming another grandchild into their lives.

Brandon has one older brother who lives on a cattle farm near their hometown with his wife and two young sons. His sister-in-law is a cosmetologist in their small community, and together they've built a life rooted in hard work, faith, and family. Brandon's nephews, now 11 and 7, are a light in his life.

He still remembers holding each of them as newborns and treasures every moment they spend together, whether it's at the lake, during holidays, or spontaneous family visits.

Extended family has always been central to Brandon's life. His dad is one of seven siblings, and they gather often throughout the year to celebrate holidays and milestones, keeping traditions strong. On his mom's side, Brandon grew up with a loving group of aunts and uncles who continue to be an active and supportive part of his and Melanie's lives today.

What makes Brandon's family truly special is how much they love simply being together. His parents often travel with him and Melanie—on big trips to places like Hawaii or on fun day trips to explore small towns and try unique local spots. These shared adventures have created beautiful memories.

Brandon's family is ready to welcome a child with open arms and open hearts. They will offer a life filled with love, stability, tradition, and deep family connection—a foundation where a child can thrive, feel safe, and be truly cherished.



MELANIE'S Family

Melanie comes from a big, close-knit family filled with love, laughter, and deep-rooted support. Her parents have been happily married for 50 years and continue to be a strong foundation for the entire family. Her dad proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and later worked for the Department of Defense, while her mom delivered mail for the U.S. Postal Service. Now retired, they spend their days enjoying life—and especially spending time with their kids and grandkids.

Melanie is the youngest of four, born ten years after her siblings. Her siblings are her lifelong friends, and they all share a deep bond as adults. Her oldest brother and sister-in-law have been married for 26 years and have four children—two boys and two girls. He's an engineer, she's a nurse, and their home has always been buzzing with activity—from baseball games and gymnastics meets to

choir concerts and soccer games. They've shown what it looks like to raise a happy, thriving family with love and balance.

Her sister and brother-in-law, married for 2 years, are raising two kind and thoughtful teenage boys. Her sister works in finance, and her husband is an ironworker. Together, they've built a home grounded in love, acceptance, and respect—and are always teaching their sons the importance of compassion and inclusion.

Her youngest older brother has been married for 8 years and has a beautiful, blended family that includes three children. He's an electrical engineer, and his wife works for the U.S. Postal Service. Their home is a reminder that with love, teamwork, and patience, a strong and meaningful family can be built in many different ways.



Melanie's nieces and nephews are an inspiring group—each encouraged to be exactly who they are. Whether they dream of becoming lawyers, physicists, artists, or YouTube stars, their family is right behind them, cheering every step of the way. Watching them grow has been a source of great pride and joy.

Melanie's parents are beyond excited for more grandchildren—especially her mom, who is truly a kid at heart. They can't wait to shower another little one with love and lots of grandma's homemade cookies. Her siblings, nieces, and nephews are just as excited to welcome a new family member into their big, loving circle.



One of the most special things about Melanie's family is that everyone lives nearby, making it easy to get together often. We make time for birthdays, holidays, graduations, or just ordinary Sunday dinners. Melanie sees her parents at least once a week, and she, Brandon, and her parents often take vacations together. Many weekends are also spent at the family's lake home.

A child in Melanie's life will be surrounded by unwavering love and constant encouragement. They will grow up with a village of family members who show up for every milestone, big or small, with open arms, big hugs, and hearts full of love. Most of all, they will always know they are supported, celebrated, and deeply cherished.



Our Hobbies



We are a couple who truly loves living life to the fullest – together, with our family, and with our two sweet dogs by our side. Whether we are watching the sunrise from a mountaintop or enjoying a lazy weekend at our lake home, we are always seeking out moments that bring us closer and fill our lives with joy. We have made it a goal to visit every National Park (we're getting there!), and some of our favorite memories include hiking in the Grand Tetons, watching Old Faithful erupt in Yellowstone, and spotting grizzly bears in Glacier. We have celebrated birthdays at Harry Potter World, walked the beaches of Maui, and watched the sunset from the crater of a volcano, but some of our most meaningful moments are the simple ones: quiet evenings reading, cooking new recipes, or walking the dogs around the neighborhood.



Melanie has recently fallen in love with quilting, while Brandon enjoys golfing with his dad, brother, and father-in-law. We both love history, museums, and spontaneous road trips to anywhere fun and new. Most of all, we love being with our families. Our parents are a big part of our lives, and we often travel with them, including one unforgettable Christmas we all spent together in Hawaii.

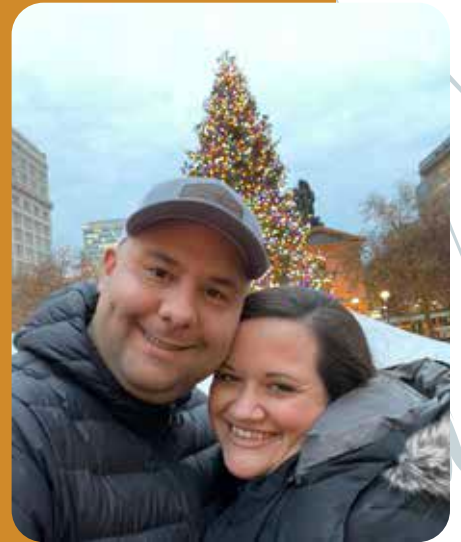




We dream of sharing this life with a child, showing them the world and watching them discover it with wide eyes and an open heart. We want our child to grow up feeling safe, loved, and endlessly supported, and to approach the world with curiosity, confidence, and wonder. Whether we're hiking a trail, exploring a new city, or simply cuddling at home with a storybook, we are excited to build a life filled with adventure, learning, and unconditional love.



"ONCE IN A WHILE, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ORDINARY LIFE,
love gives us a fairytale."



Dear Birth Parents,

We want to begin by sharing how much we respect the strength, courage, and immense love it takes to consider adoption for your child. We can only imagine the weight of this decision and the emotions you are experiencing, but we see your decision as a powerful act of love—one that places your child's future at the center of your heart. If you choose us to be a part of your journey, we will honor that trust every single day.

We have been happily married for over eight years and have always dreamed of becoming parents. After facing years of fertility challenges, we embraced adoption with full hearts. For us, adoption is not just a path to parenthood—it is a meaningful way to build a family through love and connection. Adoption is already a cherished part of our extended family, and we have seen firsthand how it has the power to weave families together in the most meaningful ways. Your child would be embraced with love not just by us, but by a large, supportive family. We live in a welcoming, safe, family-friendly neighborhood with parks, great schools, and space to grow. Our house is cozy and full of love, and we have a nursery ready. We also have two affectionate and goofy dogs named Luna and Belle who adore children. They will be very eager to welcome a little member to our family.

Our goal is to create a home where a child feels secure, celebrated and deeply loved for exactly who they are. We will encourage them to pursue their passions—whether that is painting, science, sports, or music—and we will support those interests with time, resources, and enthusiasm. In our home, we sit down to eat dinner together every night and talk about feelings, ask questions, laugh a lot, and support each other. We also know that it takes a village to raise a child. We are incredibly blessed to have our families close by. Your child would have two sets of grandparents and many aunts, uncles, and cousins ready to welcome them to our big family. We believe in raising a child with empathy, open communication, and a deep understanding of where they come from. If you choose us to adopt your child, we will always honor and respect your story. We will speak of you with admiration. We want your child to know how deeply they are loved by both their birth and adoptive families. If you are open to it, we would love to maintain a connection in whatever form feels right to you—updates, letters, photos, or visits.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We understand how big a decision this is, and we want you to know that we are ready to offer your child a life filled with love, security, laughter, and support. We promise to be the kind of parents who are there through every challenge, every joy, and every milestone—together, as a team, always.

With all our hearts,

Melanie & Brandon

"LISTEN TO THE MUSTN'TS, CHILD, LISTEN TO THE DON'TS.
LISTEN TO THE SHOULDN'TS, THE IMPOSSIBLES, THE WONT'S
LISTEN TO THE NEVER HAVES, THEN LISTEN CLOSE TO ME.
Anything can happen, child. Anything can be."

- SHEL SILVERSTEIN



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